level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector has since submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations of the Commission cover various aspects of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganised sector etc. The report is under process in consultation with various social partners. However, given the procedures involved, it may be difficult to specify the time limit.

Utilization of EPF for housing scheme

1728. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund accumulation would be utilized for housing scheme for EPF members;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other social security benefits proposed for the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund (EPF) at its 158th meeting held on 22.10.2002 has, in principle, approved launching of a housing scheme for EPF subscribers. A Committee has been constituted consisting of representatives of employers, employees and senior officials of Employees Provident Fund Organisation under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Gopalan, former Union Labour Secretary. The Committee is studying the feasibility aspects of the implementation of the scheme.

Implementation of Labour Commission's recommendations

1729. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 305 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) the recommendations on the issues which are not acceptable to the Unions; and

(b) the manner in which Government plan to resolve them and push through the long-standing reforms, which is vital for the growth and development of the Nation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Trade Unions have generally opposed

recommendations on the National Commission on Labour especially relating retrenchment, lay-off and closure. However, they have also suggested for further consultations in the matter. The Government has already started tripartite consultations on the recommendations of the Commission with various social partners. The recommendations were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002 and at a National Seminar on Unorganised Sector Workers held on 7-8 November, 2002. A Tripartite Committee meeting is also proposed to be convened in the month of Februrary, 2003 for processing the recommendations in the report of Second National Commission on Labour.

Contract workers' right

1730. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing labour laws considerable protection and justice is provided to the workers of the organised sector whereas the workers of the unorganised sector are fraught with injustice and without protection of their basic rights; and

(b) if so, whether Government plan to correct this anomaly and ensure protection of contract workers' rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that the unorganized sector workers generally do not have the same level of protection as the organized sector workers. The recommendations of the National Commission on Labour relating to the workers in the unorganized sector would form the basis for ensuring their minimum protection and welfare. With a view to give legislative protection to contract workers, the Government have enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 which seeks to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. The Act and Rules made thereunder protect the interests of contract labour in respect of their working conditions, payment of wages and other amenities relating to their welfare and health.